

« of the barriers to receiving oral care faced by people who we wouldn't have otherwise had the chance to hear from. This experience has put into perspective the reality of oral health inequality within disadvantaged groups and has highlighted the responsibility all dental practitioners have to tackle this.»

In light of the positive response there are plans being finalised to make these foodbank visits a regular occurrence. Dundee and Angus Foodbank, located at St John's Episcopal Church in Dundee, is run by volunteers and supported by 'The Trussell Trust'. Donations can be made to this organisation through their website.³ This is a well-established Foodbank, supporting thousands of people and has seen a dramatic increase in use during the current cost-of-living crisis. Dundee and Angus Foodbank have expanded their purpose and now run sessions where people can access advice and services such as financial planning and debt management. This initiative was an example of collaboration and professional community development. ChildSmile⁴ generously provided toothbrushes and toothpastes which were given to the families who attended. Without supplies

and collaborations, initiatives like this would not be possible.

This project has potential to positively impact the community. This has also demonstrated how co-creation can be a powerful tool for instilling skills in students, allowing them ownership of their training. Moving forward, there is scope for having general public partnership for co-designing future projects. Evaluation of the effectiveness of these projects both as training exercises and as public interventions is also an important aspect for consideration as this initiative continues to grow. Dundee Dental Connect promotes collaboration and encourages any other institutions who want to get involved to make contact. Ultimately, it is crucial that projects addressing oral health inequality grow and provide support and access to care to as many people as possible. ■

References

1. Munro K, Milner H, Seeballuck C. Connecting with local communities. *Br Dent J* 2023; **234**: 644–646.
2. Könings K D, Mordang S, Smeenk F, Stassen L, Ramani S. Learner involvement in the co-creation of teaching and learning: AMEE Guide No. 138. *Med Teach* 2021; **43**: 924–936.
3. Dundee and Angus foodbank. Available at: <https://dundeeandangus.foodbank.org.uk/> (accessed November 2023).
4. ChildSmile. Available at: <https://www.childsmile.nhs.scot/> (accessed November 2023).

BDA AGMs

Northern Counties Branch

The BDA Northern Counties Branch AGM will be held on Thursday 7 December 2023 between 18:30–21:30 at The Digital Lounge, Tyneside Cinema, 10 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 6QG.

Before the AGM, join John Milne MBE for a lecture on 'Wicked issues in dentistry'.

The event is open to BDA members only. For further information and to book please visit: <https://www.bda.org/events/branches-sections/Pages/northern-counties-branch-thursday-7-december-2023.aspx>.

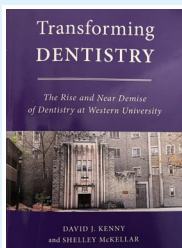
East Midland Branch

The BDA East Midland Branch AGM will be held virtually on Wednesday 17 January 2024 between 18:30–19:30 through Zoom.

It is open to BDA members only. For further information and to book please visit: <https://www.bda.org/events/Pages/east-midland-branch-wednesday-17-january-2024.aspx>.



BOOK REVIEW



TRANSFORMING DENTISTRY: THE RISE AND NEAR DEMISE OF DENTISTRY AT WESTERN UNIVERSITY

David J. Kenny and Shelley McKellar;
2022; University of Toronto Press; \$49.95 (hardback); pp. 392;
ISBN: 978-1-487-52989-5

Dr David Kenny and Shelley McKellar have authored an illuminating narrative that provides insight into the first five decades of the dental school at Western University in London, Ontario, Canada. This book uncovers the hurdles and achievements encountered by the dental programme, delving deep into the evolution of dental education, and recounting the numerous challenges and adventures faced by faculty members, students, and administrators, ultimately leading to a remarkable transformation.

The 330-page book is divided into seven chapters that document pivotal periods

in the dental school's initial 50-year history. It also includes three concise appendices, 40 pages of alumni photographs, and an extensive 80-page section of notes and references.

The authors have meticulously chronicled the growth of the dental programme within the university, highlighting the impact of various leadership appointments. This provides a comprehensive account of the innovative changes and significant milestones achieved. It stands as a testament to the collaborative efforts and visionary leadership demonstrated by deans and directors.

One of the book's most compelling aspects is its exploration of the challenges posed by economic recessions, financial difficulties, political influences, and the strategic plan of a new university president. This plan necessitated the merger of medical and dental faculties, resulting in a revamped curriculum, organisational restructuring, and accreditation hurdles in the years that followed.

In summary, this book is a highly informative and captivating read. It offers an honest portrayal of the difficulties faced by the dental education system, intertwined with stories of resilience and ultimate victory. With its broad appeal to dental professionals, academics, and alumni, this book is a valuable addition to the history of dentistry in Canada and deserves recognition for its substantial contributions.

Bruce Pynn